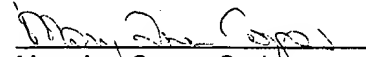


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Mary Ann Copas, Sec'y

In the Application of

Ernst Michael Winter, Lothar Schäfer and Thorsten Mathée

Ser.No.: Not Yet Known (Based on PCT/EP99/02654 filed April 20, 1999)

Filed: December 23, 1999

For: GEMSTONES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING ENTRY INTO NATIONAL STAGE

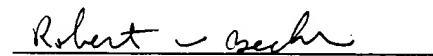
Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

To eliminate multiple dependencies, please make claims 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 13 dependent on claim 1 only.

Respectfully submitted,


Robert W. Becker
Registration No. 26,255

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